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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Christine Decaria

Confirmation No. 8032

Serial No.: 10/635,293

Group No.: 3763

Filed: August 6, 2003

Examiner: Cris Loiren Rodriguez

For: Connector with Protrusion Adapted for  
Interconnection with Second Member

Docket No.: 19690A

**Response to Restriction Requirement Without Traverse**Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement mailed February 23, 2005, Applicant respectfully elects claims directed to Species (a) as to the connector and Species (ii) as to the ferrule. These species correspond at least to FIGs. 5, 6, 6B, and 9A as noted by the Examiner.

This election is made **without traverse**. Applicant specifically reserves the right to seek patent protection for non-elected subject matter by divisional application. All claims are readable on this Species and as such no amendment to the claims is necessitated by this Election. All claims in the case remain in their originally submitted form but have been appended hereto beginning on Page 2. The undersigned may be reached at: 770-587-8621.

Respectfully submitted,

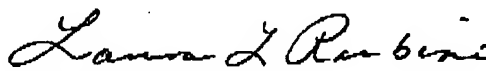
Christine Decaria



Scott B. Garrison, Registration No.: 39198

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, Laura L. Rubino, hereby certify that on Tuesday, March 22, 2005, this document is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. 703-872-9306.



Laura L. Rubino

1. (Original) A connector adapted for use with a feeding set formed from flexible material comprising:  
a body with a conduit therethrough, the body having a first end, a second end, an inner surface and an outer surface; and  
a protrusion extending from the outer surface of the body, wherein the protrusion is configured to be received in a second member so as to allow the connector and the second member to be releasably interconnected.
2. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the outer surface has at least two regions having different diameters.
- 3 (Original) The connector of claim 2 wherein the outer surface of the body has at least one luer, wherein the luer connects two regions having different diameters.
4. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the body is tapered at least in part.
5. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the body has multiple tapers along the outer surface.
6. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the inner surface of the body is tapered at least in part.
7. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the connector is a universal connector.
8. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the connector is a Christmas tree connector.
9. (Original) The connector of claim 1 wherein the protrusion is along the outer surface between the first end and the second end of the body.
10. (Original) The connector of claim 1 having a connection mechanism at the first end of the body.
11. (Original) The connector of claim 1 being adapted for connection with a feeding tube set.
12. (Original) The connector of claim 1 further comprising a sealing member.
13. (Original) An adapter for use with a feeding set comprising:

a body with a bore therethrough, the body having a first end, a second end, and an outer surface;  
and

a protrusion extending from the outer surface of the body, wherein the protrusion is configured to be received in a second member so as to allow the adapter and the second member to be releasably interconnected;

wherein the protrusion is along the outer surface between the first end and the second end of the body;

wherein the outer surface of the body has a plurality of regions having different diameters; and

wherein the outer surface of the body having at least one bevel, wherein each bevel connects two regions having different diameters.

14. (Original) The adapter of claim 13 wherein the body has multiple tapers along the outer surface.

15. (Original) The adapter of claim 13 having a connection mechanism at the first end of the body.

16. (Original) The adapter of claim 15 wherein the connection mechanism allows tubing to be releasably secured to the adapter.

17. (Original) The adapter of claim 13 being adapted for connection with a feeding tube set.

18. (Original) The adapter of claim 13 wherein the connector is a universal connector.

19. (Original) The adapter of claim 13 wherein the connector is a Christmas tree connector.

20. (Original) A connector adapted for use with a feeding tube formed from flexible material comprising:

a body with a conduit therethrough, the body having a first end, a second end, an inner surface and an outer surface; wherein the outer surface has at least two regions having different diameters; and

a protrusion extending from the outer surface of the body, the protrusion configured to be received in a second member so as to allow the connector and the second member to be releasably interconnected;

the outer surface of the body having at least one bevel, wherein the bevel connects two regions

along the surface of the body having different diameters.